

File No. 10178 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GANS & HAMAN,
Counsellors at Law,
1137-1159 CALVERT BUILDING.

Baltimore, July 20, 1909.

Edgar Allan Poe, Esq.,
City Solicitor,
Court House, City.

Dear Sir:

In reference to the question submitted to you by the Mayor, at the session of the Board of Awards on Wednesday last, concerning the kinds of tool proof steel work permitted by the specifications for additions and alterations to the Baltimore City Jail, you have kindly expressed your willingness to have us submit our views, as counsel for the Van Dorn Iron Works.

The exact question submitted to you, as we understand it, is whether the specifications in question permit, by a proper construction thereof, the use of the Van Dorn White Diamond steel for window guards, cell fronts, and cell doors, or whether the specifications must be construed as requiring the use, for these purposes, of the 5-ply bars alone.

At the outset it is to be borne in mind that both the 5-ply material and the Van Dorn product are tool proof. This has been demonstrated to the entire satisfaction of the Building Inspector by whom various tests have been made, both preliminary to the furnishing of the work and of the work as furnished to the City Jail, and these tests have been further confirmed to the satisfaction, as we understand, of the Mayor and members of the Board of Awards at the recent test made, on Monday, the 12th, last, at the Klicott Machine Shops in southwest Baltimore.

For the purposes of utility, therefore, we must accept it as a fact that either one of these materials is satisfactory and efficient for the purposes required. Again, with respect to the cost of the respective materials, we enclose an affidavit made by John T. Whitehouse, Assistant Superintendent of the Van Dorn Iron Works, from which you will see that the cost of construction of the two materials is approximately the same. A statement to the same effect is contained in a letter from Franklin A. Snyder, to the Building Inspector, under date of